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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Acquisition of Tankers
2. Salvage of the SHIPKA

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Acquisition of Tankers

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1. With the discovery of oil in Bulgaria and the start of exportation of naphtha, it became necessary for Bulgaria to purchase oil tankers. It is reported that the Bulgarian State intends to purchase tankers of small tonnages as soon as possible and that it has already inquired as to a tanker of 2,000 to 2,500 tons gross weight.

2.

It is reported, though this is not confirmed, that Bulgaria has already purchased an oil tanker of approximately 2,500 tons. Finally, it is said that after this first purchase, the Bulgarians will buy other tankers for a total of five or six vessels of various tonnages.

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Salvage and Reconstruction of the SHIPKA

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3. As was previously reported, the Bulgarian ship SHIPKA, 3,000 tons, which was sunk during the war when it struck a mine in the Gulf of Varna, was recovered after more than three years of fruitless salvage work, and has been brought to the surface. According to recent reports, the ship has a large hole between the first and second holds, but the machinery is undamaged. The Bulgarian government intends to re-commission the ship and there are now the first indications of decisions as to the overhauling of the SHIPKA and its reassignment into the Merchant Marine. It is noted that the ship is one of the few which, in addition to being cargo boats, also have six 2-berth passenger cabins.

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